

REMARKS

Applicant notes with appreciation the courteous interview granted by the Examiner to George H. Gerstman, counsel for applicant, on February 10, 2004.

Pursuant to the interview, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to more clearly distinguish applicant's invention from the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance of the application as amended are respectfully requested.

As pointed out in the interview, the Euteneuer et al. reference does not concern a balloon catheter having a guidewire lumen, an inflation lumen, a guidewire port and an inflation port, as now set forth in all of applicant's claims. Applicant's balloon catheter is a significant improvement over the balloon catheter disclosed in Euteneuer et al., which is relatively complex to manufacture and has no provision for a guidewire such as now claimed in all of applicant's claims.

At the interview, the Examiner agreed that the limitations now set forth in applicant's claims overcome the prior art of the last rejection. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 12, 2004.



Registered Attorney for Applicant
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